

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

DIVISION OF BOTANY  
LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

May 18, 1951

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I've accepted the Amherst offer. After stewing over it for a week I can now get some sleep. My decision was not made without weighing all of the possibilities as you know. The main reason for my choice is to get a foot on the academic ladder. Under present conditions I think that this is a good idea, particularly since an academic job is my ultimate goal. There is one definite disadvantage in my choice, and that is the fact that I shall not be able to work on the problem which you have proposed, and I cannot help feeling that it would lead to some of the problems of adaptedness that are of interest to me. Would it be possible to tackle something simple at Amherst so that I might be able to keep myself in touch with bacterial genetics? If so, I'd appreciate any suggestion which you might have. There will be certain times when I may be able to get a leave and there are vacations. Because of my interests I must make the opportunity to work with you, if you will still have me, in the near future.

My stay with you and Esther was wonderful. The Madison C. of C. would have been proud of you. Thank you very much for your fine hospitality.

Elizabeth and I hope to see you both on our way east this fall, though I am afraid that another visit with you will make going to Amherst even more difficult and will further the schizoid nature of my state of mind.

Best to regards to you both,

Paul

P.S. your letter just arrived. Now ~~you~~ <sup>you</sup> are really making it hard on me.

P.